(a) whether Government are aware that as per report by Brook Hunt and Associates, the Aluminium Industry would be the main beneficiary of new developments in car design during 1990-98 and that more than one million tonne yearly (1Mt/y) of aluminium would be consumed by car industry by 1998; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take for the increased production of aluminium apart from other metals like nickel, copper and zinc which would be less in demand as compared to aliminium based fuel injection systems in India and abroad with details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The Report by Brook Hunt and Associates has not come to the notice of the Government. However, the Government is aware about the likely increased applications of aluminium in automobile indusrtry, India is presently not only self-sufficient in aluminium but also export about 15% of the aluminium produced annually. It has also abundant resources of bauxite which can contribute to higher production of aluminium if the demand and price factors are favourable.

Perspective Plan for Steel Sector

2516. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for having a 20-years perspective plan for Steel Sector; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof and the likely date of its being ready and presentation to the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Government has set up a Task Force for preparing an action plan for the growth of Indian Iron and Steel Industry over the next 20 years. The report is likely to be submitted shortly. Details of recommendations of the Task Force and action to be taken thereon will be known only thereafter.

Manganese Ore India Limited (MOIL)

2517. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Manganese Ore India Limited (MOIL), is planning to diversify the activities into high carbon and low carbon Femn;

(b) if so, the proposed capacities of the high-low carbon Femn plants site and location, construction/commissioning estimated cost thereof during this year and by when they will go for full production by using captive ore from its own Mines (plant wise); and

(c) keeping in view bad days of weak ore demand whether the company is branching out into Ferro-alloys, also indicating the future prospects/further diversification purposes of MOIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) to (c) With a view to upgrade the poor quality ores, diversify for producing higher value products and improve its. profitability, Manganese Ore India Limited is considering various proposals for being implemented during the VIII plan. The projects identified include High Carbon and Low Carbon Ferro Manganese Plants, a second electrolytic manganese dioxide plant, an electrolytic manganese metal plant,etc.